	Page 1
1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
	FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
2	WESTERN DIVISION
	CIVIL ACTION NO. 5:21-cv-0137-FL
3)
	360 VIRTUAL DRONE SERVICES LLC)
4	et al.,
)
5)
	Plaintiffs,)
6)
	V.)
7)
)
8	ANDREW L. RITTER, in his
	official capacity as Executive)
9	Director of the North Carolina)
	Board of Examiners for)
10	Engineers and Surveyors,)
	et al.,
11)
)
12	Defendants.)
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16 17	REMOTE VIDEOCONFERENCE 30(b)(6) DEPOSITION
18	of
19	ANDREW L. RITTER
20	(Taken by Plaintiffs)
21	Thursday, January 20th, 2022
22	1:52 p.m.
23	2.32 p.m.
24	
25	Reported by: Leslie Christian Lentkowski

	Page 2
1	APPEARANCES:
2	On Behalf of the Plaintiffs:
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	On Behalf of the Defendants:
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	Also Present:
13	Take M. Takedan DIG
1 4	John M. Logsdon, PLS
14	North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and
15	Surveyors
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2	Witness																	Pag	е	
3	Andrew L.	Ritte	r																	
4	By Mr.	Gedge																		4
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	Page 4
1	PROCEEDINGS
2	Whereupon,
3	ANDREW L. RITTER, having been previously
4	sworn by declaration under penalty of perjury,
5	testified as follows:
6	EXAMINATION
7	BY MR. GEDGE:
8	Q. Mr. Ritter, we will turn over to the entity
9	deposition. And so do you understand that you're also
10	here today to testify not just about your personal
11	knowledge but also as a representative of the Board of
12	Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors?
13	A. Yes.
14	Q. Okay. I will introduce the notice of
15	30(b)(6) deposition. All right. I just posted
16	Exhibit 38, and it's under the folder that says "Andrew
17	Ritter," not deposition of board of engineers. Let me
18	know if you have any trouble finding it.
19	A. 38?
20	Q. Yes.
21	A. I got it.
22	Q. Have you seen this document before?
23	A. Yes.
24	Q. Okay. This is the notice of 30(b)(6)
25	deposition to the board, right?

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- Q. Do you understand that you have been designated as the representative of the board to testify on the board's behalf as to Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And are you prepared to testify as the board's representative on those topics?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Can you tell me briefly what steps you've taken to prepare to testify on the board's behalf today?
- MR. HANNA: Object to the question if
 it at all covers any discussions he may have had with
 his attorney.
- 16 BY MR. GEDGE:
- Q. And to the extent you can answer that without telling me about your conversations with Mr. Hanna.
- 20 A. Okay. I've -- the preparation I did was
 21 read the materials that are in front of me.
- Q. And by that, do you mean the notice of deposition itself?
- A. If that's what this is, yes.
- Q. Right. Exhibit 38?

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- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Did you review any other materials in preparation to testify as the board's designee?
 - A. I'm not sure what you mean, but I read the 360 drone report. That may be the extent of it. I read some of the materials that have been sent to me. I mean, there's been so much sent, so I've read materials that have been sent to me.
 - Q. Okay. And when you said "the 360 drone report," was that Mr. Schall's expert report?
 - A. No. But I did read Schall's expert report.
 - Q. Okay. Sorry. When you referred to the 360 drone report, was that the investigative report or --
 - A. Yes, our investigative report.
 - Q. Gotcha. Okay. How long did you take to prepare for the entity part of the deposition?

 MR. HANNA: Objection to form.

BY MR. GEDGE:

- Q. I'll do it again. How much time did you spend preparing for this part of the deposition that we just started?
- MR. HANNA: Object to form.

23 BY MR. GEDGE:

Q. You can answer it if you understand what I said.

set of interrogatories."

- Q. And I understand that you signed a document attesting to the truth of these responses; is that right?
 - A. Yes.

Q. I'll just post that as well.

I posted Exhibit 40, which I think is your verification. If you want to take a look and confirm, I would appreciate it.

- A. Yes. I'm confirming it's a verification.
- Q. Turning to Exhibit 39, the interrogatory responses, I would like us to scroll down to Interrogatory 10. Just a second. On Page 13, you'll see Interrogatory 10.
 - A. Page 13, you said?
- Q. Yes.
 - A. Okay.
- Q. Let's read it for the transcript. So
 Interrogatory 10 asks the defendant to state each
 governmental interest that you contend is advanced by
 preventing plaintiffs from creating, processing, and
 disseminating data about land and structures (including
 data about distances, coordinates, elevations, and
 volumes), right?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. So you're welcome to read the response --

kind of the boldface response to that. It's about three or four pages long. I'll tell you the part I'm interested in is just toward the very bottom of that first page. I'm happy for you to read as much of it as you want, and once you've done that, let me know and we can talk about it.

- A. You're referring to the bottom of Page 13?
- Q. Yeah.

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- A. I'm ready for your question.
- Q. Okay. Great. So there's a fair amount of lead-up in here, but the final full sentence on Page 13 says, "The purpose of the Act is to 'safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote public welfare.'"

 Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Am I correct that those are the governmental interests that the defendant contends the act exists to further?
- MR. HANNA: Object to form.
- THE WITNESS: Yeah. I kind of lost
- 21 you on the question.
- 22 BY MR. GEDGE:
- Q. Okay. So the interrogatory asks the
 defendant to state governmental interests, right, that
 are advanced by regulating certain kinds of information

under the licensure statute, right?

A. Yes.

- Q. And my question for you is if we look at this sentence, it says, "The purpose of the Act is to 'safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare.'" My question for you is is safeguarding life, health, and property and promoting the public welfare, are those the governmental interests that are furthered by the act -- by this act?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Can you identify any other interests that the act serves?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. What interests?
- A. What 89-C does is it -- we have a sentence that reads -- and, again, I'm paraphrasing. I don't have it in front of me. Gross negligence, incompetence, and misconduct -- we're telling the public that we may -- we're hiring a licensed surveyor, there's a bar, and the licensed work is going to be above that bar. It's going to be above incompetence, gross negligence, and misconduct. And if it's not above the bar, then the board can hold the licensee responsible for his actions.

We're also establishing a minimum level of

competence via the three E's -- the education, exam, and experience. When somebody gets licensed, what we're telling the citizens of North Carolina is they have met a minimum level of competence, and the work they're going to receive from that licensee meets that minimum level of competence. If it doesn't, again, then the board by statute has the ability to remedy the situation.

- Q. All of that makes sense to me. It honestly sounds kind of like that all falls under the broader umbrella of safeguarding life, health, and property and promoting the public welfare. Is that fair to say?
- A. I wouldn't disagree with that. Yes, I would agree with that.
- Q. Beyond what you just described, are there any other governmental interests that are served by the statute?
 - A. Not that I can think of.
- Q. I talked with Mr. Schall about this a little bit yesterday, and I did touch on the board's view too. I understand the board's position to be that providing a client with a 3D digital model or a measurable orthomosaic map -- providing a client with that kind of information counts as surveying, right?
 - A. Yes. As you described it, I think it meets

the statutory definition of surveying.

- Q. My question is would it be surveying for a non-licensee to create a measurable orthomosaic map of their own property for their own personal use? Does that also fall within the definition of surveying?
- A. Oh, boy. I don't know. There's -- there is a line of what you can do for yourself that's okay, and you cross it at a certain point where it becomes available for public consumption. So as you described the question, if I did an orthomosaic map for my property and it wasn't available for public consumption, I don't think that's surveying in North Carolina. If it becomes available for public consumption, I believe that would cross the line.
- Q. Okay. What do you mean by "public consumption"? Selling it to somebody else or something else?
- A. If you survey your boundary and you record that down at the Register of Deeds Office, your boundary is also somebody else's boundary. So even though you're surveying your property, if it's out there for public consumption, your boundaries are also somebody else's boundaries.
- Q. That makes perfect sense. I mean, I assume that -- well, maybe you can tell me. If a non-licensee

just walks down to the local Register of Deeds with, like, a crayon drawing map of their backyard and tries to register it as a survey, I assume that the Register of Deeds isn't going to accept that, right?

- A. No, that's not correct. The Register of Deeds would accept it.
- Q. Good. So maybe you can explain that. How does that work?
- A. So the Register of Deeds is not my bailiwick, so to speak. What I understand about the Register of Deeds Office is their job is not to check that crayon drawing. Their job is to record that drawing.
- Q. Is it your understanding that they check to see whether a plat or a survey has been stamped by a surveyor?
- A. I do not know. And, again, we don't -- the Register of Deeds is considered the Secretary of State's Office in North Carolina, and what a Register of Deed does and does not do, I do not know.
 - Q. That's fair.

A. I did not know if that's a requirement. I do not know if a map that's attached to a deed has to be -- I don't know if the Register of Deeds requires that to be signed and sealed.

Q. From the board's perspective, the board would say that that has to be signed and sealed?

- A. We would say that map has to be signed and sealed.
- Q. Okay. I think I understand kind of the line we're drawing there between, you know, your personal map down to the courthouse.

But am I right that -- I think we're on the same page. If you're not presenting your orthomosaic map to the world for public consumption in one way or another if you made an orthomosaic map of your own property for your own use on your own land, am I right that that does not fall within the definition of surveying?

- A. Following your scenario, that would be correct.
- Q. Okay. I think Mr. Schall had the opposite view yesterday -- maybe not the opposite. As I understood, he was saying he thought that technically it would qualify, but then he didn't think anyone at the board would care enough to do anything about it.

As I understand it, your view seems a little bit different in that you just don't think it qualifies in the first place. Am I understanding that correctly?

A. Well, that goes back to my original -
MR. HANNA: Let me interject and just
say that I object to the form and the summary of

Mr. Schall's testimony. To the extent that you heard
that testimony, you can answer.

THE WITNESS: Well, it goes back to my original issue. There's a line there, and I would need some really -- some micro-specifics to tell you where the line is. We get scenarios here where somebody is building a place of assembly on their own property, and if you bring the public in to that place of assembly, all of a sudden does that take it away from the owner's right to not have to do things according to the law because it's their own property? So there is a line there. I do not know where Mr. Schall was drawing the line. Like I said, I'm going to stick with my answer before. Sometimes it's okay, but sometimes you cross the line. I need some micro-specifics.

BY MR. GEDGE:

- Q. And what kind of specifics would be helpful to you in making that analysis?
- A. If you drew an orthomosaic map and nobody knew about it, how would I know about it? If you drew an orthomosaic map for yourself and I knew about it, how did I know about it? Those are the micro-specifics

this board would look at. If it ended up in the board's hands, the question is how did it end up in the board's hands? And usually that means it wasn't just for the owner's use. Somehow it ended up in the public domain. If it ended up in the public domain, we would would to take a look at what its use and intent was for.

- Q. Okay. This will probably sound a bit familiar from yesterday, but does the board have evidence that it's more common here in Virginia than in North Carolina for members of the public to be harmed by inaccurate orthomosaic maps?
- A. Yeah. I no information on what happens in Virginia.
- Q. Okay. And, again, you're testifying as the board's representative, right?
 - A. Correct.

- Q. Okay. Similar question. Does the board have any evidence that inaccurate orthomosaic maps cause more instances of harm in Virginia than they do in North Carolina?
- A. My answer is going to be the same. I have no information on Virginia.
- Q. Okay. And, likewise, I assume the board does not have any evidence that inaccurate orthomosaic

1 maps cause more severe harm in Virginia than in
2 North Carolina?

- A. I have no information on what transpires in Virginia.
- Q. Similar question for the 3D digital models
 -- does the board have any evidence that it's more
 common in Virginia than in North Carolina for members
 of the public to be harmed by inaccurate 3D digital
 models?
- A. I have no information on what goes on in Virginia.
- Q. Okay. Does the board have any evidence that inaccurate 3D digital models cause more instances of harm in Virginia than they do in North Carolina?
- A. I have no information on what goes on in Virginia.
- Q. Thank you for indulging me. This will not go on forever. Just a few more.

Does the board have any evidence that inaccurate 3D digital models cause more severe harm in Virginia than they do in North Carolina?

- A. I have no information on what goes on in Virginia.
- Q. Moving to Kentucky, is your answer the same?

	Page 16
1	A. Yes, sir.
2	Q. Okay. Mississippi?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. All of the states in the union?
5	A. Yes. My answer would be my only
6	information will be for what happens in North Carolina,
7	and I have no information on what goes on outside of
8	our borders.
9	Q. Does the board as I understand it, the
10	board does not have any evidence comparing how common
11	it is for members of the public to be harmed by
12	inaccurate orthomosaic maps in North Carolina versus
13	any other state in the nation?
14	A. That's correct.
15	Q. And the board does not have any evidence
16	comparing how common it is for members of the public to
17	be harmed by unlicensed orthomosaic maps in
18	North Carolina versus any other state in the nation?
19	A. That's correct.
20	MR. HANNA: Object to the form.
21	BY MR. GEDGE:
22	Q. And by "unlicensed orthomosaic maps," I

mean they are maps that are created by someone who is not a licensed surveyor.

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MR. HANNA: Object to form.

the -- how common it is for members of the public to be

Page 20 harmed by inaccurate volumetric calculations in 1 2 North Carolina versus any other states? 3 Α. No. Same objection to form. MR. HANNA: 4 BY MR. GEDGE: 5 Are you familiar at all with how other Ο. 7 states define surveying? Not so much. Some. Some. Not so much. Α. Ι 8 heard Mr. Schall -- I know a little bit about 9 South Carolina, but that's about it. 10 I think Mr. Schall testified yesterday that 11 -- and I think he said in the past few years something 12 13 around 33 states license photogrammetry. Did you 14 remember him testifying to that? 15 Α. Yes. 16 Ο. Do you have any reason to think he's wrong about that? 17 18 Α. No. I think he said that 17 states -- I think 19 Ο. within the past few years, 17 states did not license 20 21 photogrammetry, right? I heard him say that. I don't have 22 Α. Yes. information whether that's accurate or not. 23 I have no 24 reason to doubt it.

It's my understanding that some states

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Q.

create an exemption from licensure for employees when they're simply performing surveying on their employer's property. I don't think North Carolina has that exemption, but am I wrong on that? Does North Carolina have an exemption that resembles that?

- A. Yes, we do. Now -- go ahead. I'm sorry.
- Q. Explain that.

- A. Well, the answer is yes, and then the second part is maybe. The previous question, if you're working for your employer and the work product is for your employer, you don't need to be licensed except if that product is going to be used for public consumption.
- Q. I'm sorry. It's probably my fault, but can you repeat that?
- A. So we have what's called the industrial exemption in North Carolina, which says if you're performing this service for your employer, not for the public, you don't need to be licensed. However, if your work product is to be out in the public for public consumption, then the industrial exemption does not apply.

So an example of that is more common in the engineering world where you'll do the engineering for your company, but you can't call that person on the

phone and ask him for engineering services. You see that more on the engineering side. You don't see it much on the surveying side because there's not much surveying that's not going to be out in the public. So if you're working for Duke Energy and you're surveying the easement lines, those easements are going to be in the public and the industrial exemption doesn't apply, and that work of surveying has to be signed and sealed.

Q. Okay. I see.

MR. HANNA: Just for my clarification, Sam, what topic are you under right now from the 30(b)(6)?

MR. GEDGE: Let me pull it up. It's, I think, 6 -- between 6 and 9. All of them with the notes.

MR. HANNA: 6, 7, 8, and 9 seem to be about the basis for each governmental interest that the board contends is advanced by North Carolina's surveying licensing law, but I thought -- you seem to be getting into the industrial exemption or what's in the -- I'm not sure it relates to governmental interests, but go ahead. I didn't -- this is not a topic that we covered prior to coming here, so go ahead. You can go a little bit. I just -- this is getting a little far field.

MR. GEDGE: That's fine.

BY MR. GEDGE:

Q. Mr. Ritter, we're talking about the industrial exemption. Give your best answer. It seems like you're familiar with it. I lost track a little bit, but just to make sure I understand how the industrial exemption works, let's say you have a company that owns a piece of land and they're planning to build a private facility for themselves on that piece of land, and as part of that, they construct it themselves. They are digging a hole, and one of their employees does some volumetric calculations as part of helping his employer build this facility. Is that -- would that be the kind of scenario that would fall within the industrial exemption, or am I not --

A. To my knowledge, that --

MR. HANNA: I want to object again to that question. I'm not sure that's covered by the notice of deposition, but you can answer. Go ahead.

THE WITNESS: To my knowledge, that would be an activity that would not require a license. If you're establishing the volume of that hole for your employer on his property, it's my belief that that doesn't need a license and that comes under the industrial exemption.

1 BY MR. GEDGE:

- Q. Okay. But if the employer instead were to hire 360 Virtual Drone Services to do those same volumetric calculations, am I understanding correctly that that would not fall within the industrial exemption?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. As though the person actually performing the calculations doesn't have a surveyor license?
- A. Well, we would require 360 Drone to have a surveyor license to do it.
- Q. Exactly. But just to clarify, in each of those scenarios if the employee is performing those volumetric calculations without a surveyor license, that's okay because he falls within the industrial exemption, right?
- A. Yes. That's in the statute as an exemption.
- Q. Okay. And am I correct that if 360 Virtual Drone performs those same volumetric calculations for the employer, they would be in violation because they are not an employee of the property owner?
- A. Correct. They would not come under the industrial exemption clause. Therefore, they would need a license to do that.

Q. Okay. Thank you. I think we're getting pretty close, Mr. Ritter. Why don't we take another five minutes and I can see how much more we have, and we can hopefully wrap it up. Sound good?

MR. HANNA: Sounds good.

(A break was taken.)

BY MR. GEDGE:

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- Q. Mr. Ritter, I posted Exhibit 31 in your folder. It's Mr. Schall's expert report. As I understand it, you have looked at that before; is that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Just scroll down to pages -- well, Page 15.

 We can start out -- I'll give you a chance to get

 there.
- 16 A. Okay.
 - Q. On Page 15, there's a section of the report that's entitled "Specific Issues Raised in the Complaint." Have you had a chance to read this section specifically?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. In this section, Mr. Schall offers opinions on what kinds of services or products do and do not qualify as surveying under the North Carolina statute. Is that a fair characterization?

1 A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. Does the board disagree with any part of Mr. Schall's opinion in this section?
 - A. I don't think so.
- Q. I guess just for clarity, by "this section," I mean the section starting with "Specific Issues Raised in the Complaint" and going through to the end of the report on Page 16.
 - A. Okay. I was on Letter A.
- Q. Well, we can go chunk by chunk. It sounds like you looked over Letter a. The board doesn't disagree with Ms. Schall's opinion there?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. Okay. You can march on to Letter B, and once you've had a chance to look at that, I will have the same question.
 - A. So under Letter B, I think his opinion is correct as well.
 - Q. Okay. And Letter C?
 - A. His opinion is correct as well.
- Q. Okay. And same for D?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. Does providing orthomosaic maps to a client for free as opposed to for compensation also fall within the definition of surveying in the board's

1 | view?

- A. 89-C is silent on cost. Whether it's free or you charge, it doesn't change what the product is.
- Q. Okay. So the analysis is the same regardless of whether money changed hands?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. When we were discussing your testimony in your personal capacity, we talked about disclaimers a little bit. Do you remember that?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. So now that you're sitting here as the board or on the board's behalf, is it fair to say that you are not aware of any instance where the board has informed a non-licensee that they can provide orthomosaic maps to a client as long as they include some kind of disclaimer language on their map?

MR. HANNA: Just for the record, when you say "orthomosaic maps," have we defined that?

MR. GEDGE: I'm happy to. So for purposes of these questions, when I'm saying "orthomosaic maps" --

MR. HANNA: And the reason why I asked that is because initially Mr. Jones testified that he provided orthomosaic maps, but then he testified that he essentially turned it into a PDF and provided it in

that form. And so I just think that it's important when these kinds of questions are being asked or hypotheticals are being given that the precise product or data that is being discussed is properly identified.

BY MR. GEDGE:

- Q. So, Mr. Ritter, for purposes of these questions, I'll use "orthomosaic map" in the shorthand, but what I mean is an orthomosaic map that's qualified as surveying. So whether that's an orthomosaic map that has coordinate metadata in it or geo-referencing information, it is a map that on its own, you, the board, would say is surveying. Does that make sense?
 - A. Yes, sir.

- Q. Okay. So I guess circling back to my question, that is -- as the board's designee, can you point to any instance where the board has informed a non-licensee that they can give an orthomosaic map to a client as long as they include some kind of disclaimer language on that map?
 - A. I don't recall that happening.
- Q. Okay. I have a similar question for 3D digital models. As the board's designee, can you point me to any instance where the board has informed a non-licensee that they can provide 3D digital models to a client as long as they include certain disclaimer

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- A. Not that I recall.
- Q. Just to close the loop on that line of questioning about other states, the board does not have any information about harms caused by unlicensed surveying in other states; is that right?

MR. HANNA: Object to form.

THE WITNESS: No.

BY MR. GEDGE:

- Q. Okay. It might have been that I asked a bad question, but I still think that -- I'll ask another question.
- Does the board have any information about harms caused by unlicensed surveying in other states?

MR. HANNA: Object to form.

16 THE WITNESS: I don't think I

understand the question. If I could ask you a question

18 if that's okay -- what do you mean by information

19 presented at the board?

20 BY MR. GEDGE:

- Q. Not by the board, but is the board in possession of any evidence about the number of instances of photogrammetry malpractice in different states?
- 25 A. No.

	Page 30
1	Q. Okay. Give me one minute.
2	That's all I have for now, Mr. Ritter.
3	I'll let Mr. Hanna ask any questions if he would like.
4	MR. HANNA: I have no questions.
5	MR. GEDGE: Thank you, Mr. Ritter. I
6	appreciate it.
7	(Proceedings concluded at 2:41 p.m.)
8	(Signature reserved.)
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	Page 31
1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
3	COUNTY OF WAKE)
4	
5	I, Leslie Christian Lentkowski, the officer
6	before whom the foregoing remote videoconference
7	30(b)(6) deposition was taken, do hereby certify that
8	the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing
9	remote videoconference 30(b)(6) deposition was taken by
10	me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to
11	typewriting under my direction; that I am neither
12	counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the
13	parties to the action in which this remote
14	videoconference 30(b)(6) deposition was taken, and
15	further that I am not a relative or employee of any
16	attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto,
17	nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome
18	of the action.
19	4th day of February, 2022.
20	
21	Leslie Christian Lenthowski
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23	LESLIE CHRISTIAN LENTKOWSKI
	Notary Public in and for
24	County of Wake
	State of North Carolina
25	Notary Public No. 201221300088